

Dr Emily Berger wins award

The *Australian Psychological Society* have awarded scientist Dr Emily Berger of the Hazelwood Health Study, for her valuable research into rural and remote communities. Dr Emily Berger was announced as the winner of the 2021 “*Significant Contribution to Rural and Remote Communities Award*”




About Dr Berger

Dr Emily Berger is an Educational and Developmental Psychologist and Senior Lecturer in the School of Educational Psychology and Counselling in the Faculty of Education at Monash University. She also holds an Adjunct Senior Research Fellow position with the School of Rural Health, Monash University.

Dr Berger's work centres on childhood and family adversity, stress and trauma. She has worked for 8 years with the School of Rural Health evaluating the impacts of the Hazelwood disaster on children and families in regional Victoria. She also works on projects with partners in regional and rural Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland to understand and address the wellbeing needs of children and families in these communities. This includes farming families and families exposed to drought and disasters, such as bushfires and floods.



Dr Berger is passionate about working with rural and regional communities and developing programs and strategies which add to the strengths of these people. She has published and presented widely on issues related to regional and rural mental health and wellbeing. Dr Berger teaches in the Masters of Professional Psychology and Masters of Educational and Developmental Psychology courses at Monash University and seeks to educate her students about the experiences, needs and strengths of regional and rural families and the benefits of working in regional and rural areas.



About the award

The Australian Psychological Society (APS), confers a range of awards and prizes each year to honour “Outstanding achievements in psychology”. Dr Emily Berger was selected and chosen as the winner of the 2021 APS awards for her “Valuable research into rural and remote communities”. We congratulate Dr Berger for her work, and for receiving this outstanding award from the Australian Psychological Society.

**The Hazelwood Health Study is led by Monash University with collaborators from Menzies, Federation University, The University of Adelaide and CSIRO.
The research was funded by the Department of Health.**